Statement

Projected Status of Direct Exchange Line (DEL), Internet and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)

(All figures in Lakh)

Year	DEL	Internet	ISDN
2000	284.47 (Actual—285)*	9.5 (Actual—9.4)	0.15 (Actual—0.15)
2001	362.47 (Actual—356)*	19.0 (Actual—25.0 upto Dec. 2000)	0.30 (Actual—0.29 upto Jan. 01)
2002	453.47	38.0	0.60
2003	543.47	76.0	0.90
2004	651.47	114.0	1.35
2005	778.47	171.0	2.0
2006	930.47	257.0	3.0
2007	1101.47	385.0	4.5
2008	1292.47	578.0	6.75
2009	1508.47	722.0	8.45
2010	1745.47	902.0	10.55

*including Cellular Phones.

Opening of Post Offices in Arunachal Pradesh villages

4164. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed their target to open Post Offices in all the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Post Offices are likely to be set up in all the villages of Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Postal services of delivery and collection of mails are provided to all the rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh. The Ninth Five Year Plan has a target for opening 33 post offices in Arunachal Pradesh. Of this, 21

post offices have been opened so far. Post offices are opened in rural areas on norm based justification subject to availability of resources.

Guidelines for new basic operators

4165. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced guidelines for the entry of new basic service operators; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Government has announced guidelines on 25th January, 2001 for issue of licenses with unrestricted open entry of new Basic Service Operators in all the Service areas including the six service areas where private licensees already existed. As per these guidelines, the usage of handheld sets by the subscribers of Basic Telephone Service providers has been permitted under wireless subscriber access systems in the local area and not more than 5 + 5 MHz spectrum in designated/prescribed frequency bands for these systems can be allocated to any basic service operator including the existing ones on first come first served basis.

The other salient features of these guidelines for provision of Basic Telephone service are:

(i) Any Indian registered company, whose promoters constituting at least 30% of total equity have experience in telecom sector, can apply for licenses even for more than one telecom circle subject to its foreign equity not exceeding 49% and meeting the eligibility requirements in respect of net-worth, paid up equity capital, payment of entry fee and license fee, submission of bank guarantees (as per statement) (*See* below).